

Don't Become  
A Victim Of  
Burglary,  
Assault, or  
Theft



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Homeowners  
Safety



## When selling your home..

- Never leave a message on your voicemail informing callers that you are not home. It's better to leave a message that says you are "unavailable to answer the phone right now."
- Never set an appointment with anyone to see your home unless you have their name and number and have called back to verify that number.
- At a showing it is safer to have a second person.
- Before you conduct an open house, remember to remove keys, credit cards, jewelry, crystal, laptops, medicine, guns and other valuables from the home or lock them away during showings. Remove prescription drugs from your home. Leaving them in the cabinet does not mean they are hidden.
- Consider hiring a security guard, especially if you have many valuables you can't remove.



- Request that all visitors sign in a guest book or roster. You are giving away a lot of information about your house and you have a right to know who is getting that information. Feel free to explain to protesters that it's a security measure. Certainly some visitors will use a false name but at least they will be aware of your organized procedures and might think twice about victimizing you. If possible, jot down license plate numbers and ask for photo identification to verify the information in the guest book or sign-in roster.
- Request that visitors enter and leave through one door only, except when you escort them to the back yard, garage, etc.
- Position Yourself to have quick and easy access to all your exits.
- Without hovering, escort prospective buyers through your home by following them (never leading them) and keeping them within sight at all times. Keep a reasonable distance between you and your visitor. Never enter a bedroom, den or other room with a visitor. You could be trapped inside. Keep your path clear for a fast exit.
- If you expect a crowd, draft a few friends and relatives to help out. If simply too many show up, ask some to wait outside for the next "tour". If the market is simply loaded with shoppers, schedule appointments.
- Never discuss your personal schedule or habits with potential buyers. Statements like "We are so near the work center, I can leave my home at 8:45 and arrive by 9," tell potential criminals when you aren't home.
- Don't discuss issues involving your home security including dead-lock bolt locks, security systems, alarms etc. Don't divulge information on your flyer or other marketing tools that might breach security.
- Always let someone who is not at the open house know what hours you are conducting your open house and have them check in on you from time to time. When open house has ended call your friend and let them know all is well.
- Don't park your car in your garage or driveway. Your exit could be blocked. Also don't allow other cars to use or block your drive way.
- Carry a cell phone with you at all times. If a friend is assisting, consider using two way radios to stay in touch.
- After an open house, check all the windows, doors and other entrances to make sure they are locked.